

# Oregon Council of Presidents



February 22, 2018

Senate President Peter Courtney  
Speaker of the House Tina Kotek  
Representative Nancy Nathanson

Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear President Courtney, Speaker Kotek, and Co-Chair Nathanson,

For generations, Oregon's public universities have provided a gateway to the American Dream for students and their families. The universities are havens for discovery, innovation and – most importantly when considering state investments – create and maintain pathways to success for Oregonians across the state. Our success relies on the buildings and infrastructure that enable our campuses to meet the ever-changing needs of Oregon.

As you know, in December 2017, Governor Kate Brown issued a request for the Legislative Assembly to support capital projects on the campuses of Eastern Oregon University, the Oregon State University branch campus in Bend, and the University of Oregon during the 2018 Legislative Session. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission previously reviewed and recommended these three projects prior to the 2017 Legislative Session.

In addition, Southern Oregon University is seeking \$2.8 million in emergency XI-Q bonding to replace two of the university's four boilers. An engineering report in Fall 2017 identified significant health safety issues and stressed urgent need for the replacement of these boilers.

All seven public universities discussed these capital projects at length, including studying future capacity needs and best ways to meet the needs of Oregonians, as well as the continued investment needed at the universities for deferred maintenance and support for refurbishment to help maintain our current array of capital buildings which constitute, by square footage, 50% of the state's capital assets. We have come to an understanding on the values and many of the parameters guiding the above projects as well as future capital investments at the universities.

Based on the above understanding, we stand together today, to support investment in the four projects referred to in this letter in order to promote educational opportunities in a safe environment for Oregonians. Several of the projects will also foster economic development in Oregon, leverage private giving, inspire research potential, and spur Oregon's wood products and forestry industries.

As the legislature considers the allocation of Oregon's bonding capacity, we hope you will consider the valuable return that Oregon sees on its capital investments in higher education and the unique nature of higher education's infrastructure. Investment in Oregon's public universities has demonstrable results: expanding

access for low-income and first-generation students, enhanced educational quality, and job creation in every corner of our state.

The public universities are committed to working together to provide multiple and diverse pathways for Oregon students across the entire state as they seek to realize their potential for contributing to the state's economic vitality and prosperity.

Sincerely,



Thomas Insko  
President  
Eastern Oregon University



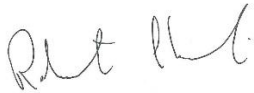
Michael Schill  
President  
University of Oregon



Edward Ray  
President  
Oregon State University



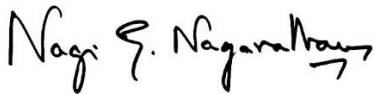
Linda Schott  
President  
Southern Oregon University



Rahmat Shoureshi  
President  
Portland State University



Rex Fuller  
President  
Western Oregon University



Nagi Naganathan  
President  
Oregon Institute of Technology

CC: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Amanda Beitel, Committee Coordinator, LFO